



Washington, D.C. 20505

13 September 2019

Ms. Colleen Woods  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 62196  
411A Highland Avenue  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Reference: F-2019-00226

Dear Ms. Woods:

This is a final response to your 29 October 2018 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the following:

- 1. All files pertaining to Operation Brotherhood, an organization that sent medical teams from the Philippines to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in the 1950s-1970s. Operation Brotherhood is referenced in CIA-RDP80R01731R000300180001-3.**
- 2. All files pertaining to the Freedom Company, an organization that sent Filipino technicians to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in the 1950s-1970s. The Freedom Company is referenced in CIA-RDP8001601R001000080001-5.**
- 3. All files pertaining to the Eastern Construction Company, an organization that sent Filipinos to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia in the 1950s-1970s. The Eastern Construction Company is referenced in CIA-RDP80R01731R000300180001-3.**

We processed your request in accordance with the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, and the CIA Information Act, 50 U.S.C. § 3141, as amended.

With respect to Items 1 and 2, we completed a thorough search for records responsive to your request and located the enclosed three documents, which we can release in segregable form with deletions made on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(1) and (b)(3). Copies of the documents are enclosed.

Additional material was determined to be currently and properly classified and must be denied in its entirety on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(1), and other material on the basis of FOIA exemptions (b)(3). Exemption (b)(3) pertains to information exempt from disclosure by statute. The relevant statutes are Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended.

As the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, I am the CIA official responsible for this determination. You have the right to appeal this response to the Agency Release Panel, in

my care, within 90 days from the date of this letter. Please include the basis of your appeal.

With respect to Item 3, responsive records, should they exist, would be contained in operational files. The CIA Information Act, 50 U.S.C. § 3141, as amended, exempts CIA operational files from the search, review, publication, and disclosure requirements of the FOIA. For your information, this determination is not subject to an administrative appeal pursuant to Agency regulations in subparts 1900.42(a) of title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations. We regret that we are unable to assist you further.

If you have any questions regarding our response, you may contact us at:

Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505  
Information and Privacy Coordinator  
703-613-3007 (Fax)

Please be advised that you may seek dispute resolution services from the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) of the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. You may reach CIA's FOIA Public Liaison at:

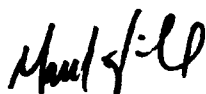
703-613-1287 (FOIA Hotline)

The contact information for OGIS is:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
202-741-5770  
877-864-6448  
202-741-5769 (fax)  
[ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)

Contacting the CIA's FOIA Public Liaison or OGIS does not affect your right to pursue an administrative appeal.

Sincerely,



Mark Lilly  
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

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Approved for Release: 2019/09/12 C02763273

1-0-1-1

CSC 7-1732

19 September 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: FP/CPS/C/TR

SUBJECT: Mutual Security Act of 1957

The possibility of making use of the President's special fund has been discussed in FE Division, and the following suggestions are considered worthy of note:

a. Japan - The necessity of educating Japanese as to methods which might be used to reclaim non-arable land to commercial advantage has been the objective of the Kiyosato Educational Experimental project (KEEP). Founded by Dr. Paul Rusch, U.S. citizen and former G-2 officer on duty in Japan, the project was begun in Yamanashi Prefecture in 1948 on 850 acres of unreclaimed land, located at some 300 feet above rice-growing level. The project now includes more than 300 milk producing Jersey cattle, an area creamery cooperative, a milk collection truck system, and an extensive experimental farm. Through application of the principles demonstrated at KEEP, it is estimated that fully 6 million acres of land not now under cultivation could be reclaimed. That this would assist in solving a portion of Japan's food problem is unquestionable. Also involved in KEE is an established rural library available to all, a rural clinic with a 20-bed hospital, and an Episcopal church, although Dr. Rusch makes it clear that there are no religious overtones to the project. Plans have been made for a vocational institute, where the principles involved in the founding of KEEP may be made available to those interested in imitating the KEEP pattern. \$100,000 would do much toward strengthening the project, and making more widespread the concepts which have gone into its establishment. The objectives of KEEP parallel those of the United States in that they work toward an economically sound Japan.

b. Indonesia - U.S. appropriations formerly available for training Indonesian Army Officers in the United States are not included in the FY 1958 budget. This activity is very worthwhile, particularly in the present situation in Indonesia. Since the Fulbright amendment authorizes the use of the special fund for assistance to schools "abroad," it may not be possible to include this program which FE Division believes should be continued.

c. Operation Brotherhood - Among the functions carried on at the present time by OB teams in Laos is that of training Laotians in the fields of nursing, first aid and public health, agricultural methods, home economics, social work, and village public work in addition to their primary medical aid program. These functions were initiated in an attempt to raise the educational, economic, and social level of Lao people, and is directly related to a request by ICA to utilize Filipino members of OB teams in Laos to take advantage

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of the Asian-to-Asian concept which has been found more acceptable in the SEA area than direct U.S. participation in training programs. The use of the President's special fund for OB is appropriate since OB carries out an educational function, exhibits the benefits of a democratic government, and was founded, sponsored, and indirectly funded by U.S. citizens and the U.S. Government. The sum of \$250,000 is required for FY 1958 to pay salaries, transportation costs, insurance, etc. of the Filipino members of the OB teams in Laos. If this amount could be made available for covert insertion into OB, CIA would be relieved from financing a basically overt operation.

2. Several additional projects have been discussed in FE Division but are not included in the above suggestions for various reasons. If, at a later date, it is deemed appropriate to request use of the President's special fund for them, a memorandum will be forwarded. Further, this Division believes that field stations should be informed of the amendment to the Mutual Security Act of 1957, and if there is no plan for a Book Dispatch, FE Division would like to circulate the information through its own system of field notices.

[REDACTED]  
CHIEF, FAR EAST DIVISION

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

**Distribution:**

- 2 - CFE
- 2 - each Branch and Staff Chief
- 1 - FE/FP/Chrono

**SECRET**

3-5166

JUL 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Topics of Possible Discussion with U. S. Ambassador to Laos, J. Graham Parsons

9-7474

1. We have summarized below for consideration of the Director of Central Intelligence topics of possible discussion with the U.S. Ambassador to Laos, The Honorable J. Graham Parsons, on 4 October.

2. Operation Brotherhood. While the base unit and four provincial teams continue activities as before, Operation Brotherhood is being partially integrated with the Civic Action program to provide medical instruction to Civic Action personnel. ICA budgeted to cover most of the costs of this activity in FY 1958 but has not yet determined the exact extent of its support, pending recommendations from ICA/Laos on the breakdown of funds for the various projects within its overall Laos budget. (Ambassador Parsons' influence over ICA/Laos planning is, of course, singularly important.) FE Division's budget for this program is near depletion. FE Division has maintained that support of Operation Brotherhood is not clearly within the scope of CIA responsibilities.

3. Civic Action. Of the first four teams graduated from the Civic Action Training School, one is in the field and the others were scheduled for assignment in September 1957, including one to each of the disputed provinces of Phong Saly and Sam Neua. The second training class of 90 students is in process. ICA has provided for most of the costs of this program in its FY 1958 budget but, as with Operation Brotherhood, the extent of projected support has not yet been defined. Although CIA accepted action responsibility for the formative stages of Civic Action, FE Division believes that this program, like Operation Brotherhood, should not be sustained largely by CIA and has advised Vientiane Station to proceed with an orderly transfer to ICA of support responsibilities for both programs, in accordance with previous understanding.

4. Auto-Defense. Progress in Auto-Defense activities has been retarded of late by the confinement of operations to defensive action, in response to Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma's policy, and by CIA personnel problems, which have reduced the CIA team assigned to this project. FE Division is seeking a ranking officer to direct this program and to make maximum advantage otherwise of the fine relationship established by the Vientiane Station with the Lao Army Chief of Staff and his deputies.

FE

[61-221,6-1, File A-11]

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

8. Indoctrination Centers. Ambassador Parsons recently proposed to help the Lao Government establish indoctrination centers for refugees, prisoners and defectors from the Pathet Lao. [REDACTED]

(b)(1)

The proposal has not yet been fully coordinated in Washington but it appears to have merit.

9. Personnel.

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[REDACTED]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

c. For the Director's information, [REDACTED] the newly appointed Chief of Station for Laos, has not yet had the opportunity to meet Ambassador Parsons because the latter left Laos before [REDACTED] arrival. A commendable word by the Director to Ambassador Parsons regarding [REDACTED] might be helpful.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)(b)(1)  
(b)(1)(b)(3)  
(b)(1)(b)(3)  
(b)(1)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Chief, Far East Division

(b)(3)

cc: DECI

DD/P 3-2003

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9-3809

24 May 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Operation BROTHERHOOD, Laos

1. This memorandum is for information only. Particular reference is made to paragraph 3.

2. Operation BROTHERHOOD was initiated in Laos in January 1957 in response to a request of the Royal Lao Government, transmitted by the Lao Junior Chamber of Commerce, to the Philippine Junior Chamber of Commerce. CIA is providing funds covertly in Laos and through the Philippine Junior Chamber of Commerce to finance the program through FY 57. The Country Team in Laos has recommended that the program be continued, and ICA is tentatively budgeting funds for the support of the program during FY 58. The ICA funds, which are contingent upon final ICA approval and Congressional appropriation, would cover the costs of medical supplies and equipment in Laos while CIA would continue to pay salaries, certain expenses and travel of Philippine and other personnel involved.

3. FE Division finds, on the basis of recent cost data, that the Agency is in a position to extend its support of the operation by utilizing currently allocated FY 57 funds and the sum of \$100,000 which is included in the FY 58 FE Division Operational Program for this activity. These funds, [redacted] permit us now to authorize the extension of Operation BROTHERHOOD at its present level through the first quarter of FY 58, pending Congressional and ICA decisions concerning ICA support during FY 58. On 1 September 1957, if ICA funds are not available, it will be necessary to decide whether (a) CIA should continue to carry the full financing of the operation (at the approximate rate [redacted] per month) or (b) phase out CIA support over a three-month period, for

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

cc. ASD  
cc. [redacted]

[61-221, Box 1]

File A-111

Approved for Release: 2019/09/12 C02876670

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which funds would be made available from the FE Division FY 58  
Operating Budget.



(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

Acting Chief, Far East Division

cc: DDCI

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